

**EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**U.S. WELCOMES SUCCESSFUL ELECTION  
IN BANGLADESH**

**WASHINGTON, DECEMBER 30 --** U.S. State Department Acting Deputy Spokesman Gordon Duguid issued the following statement on the Bangladesh election:

The United States welcomes the success of Bangladesh's parliamentary elections. We congratulate the Bangladesh Election Commission and the thousands of government officials involved in organizing this successful election. We applaud the candidates and voters for the manner in which they conducted themselves during the campaign and on Election Day. We also acknowledge the critical role that domestic and international election observers played.

All Bangladeshis can take great pride in the success of these elections. The high voter turnout underscores the people's desire to see democracy restored as well to have a voice in their future. We also look forward to a continuation of the reforms that have enjoyed wide popular support.

Those elected must prepare to assume their roles as the representatives of all the people of Bangladesh while unsuccessful candidates should continue to participate in the political process. Whether in government or opposition, all political parties have an important role in helping to build a better future for Bangladesh.

The United States will continue to support the people of Bangladesh and its new government as they begin a new chapter in their country's history.

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**GR/2008**

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*Note: A Bangla translation of this press release is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: [DhakaPA@state.gov](mailto:DhakaPA@state.gov); Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)*